

FORM ACF-202 – TANF CASELOAD REDUCTION REPORT

State: Montana

Fiscal Year to which credit applies: 2007

Overall Report X
Two-parent Report (check one)

Apply the overall credit to the two-parent participation rate? X yes
 no

PART 1 –Eligibility Changes Made Since FY 2005

(Complete this section for EACH change)

1. Name of eligibility change: Payment Standard Implementation

2. Implementation date of eligibility change: 10/1/05

3. Description of policy, including the change from prior policy:

Based on State Legislation in HB2, effective with the benefit month of October 2005, TANF cash assistance grant amounts were based on a TANF Payment Standard instead of the Benefit Standard. Households were still subject to the Gross Monthly Income (GMI) and Benefit Standard tests, which are based on 30% of 2002 Federal Poverty Level. If a household passed both these tests, they were eligible to receive a TANF grant in the amount equal to the Payment Standard minus net income. The Payment Standard is based on 33% of 2005 Federal Poverty Level.

Previously, the TANF grant amount was based on an amount equal to the Benefit Standard minus net income. In December 2004, Governor Martz approved a \$30 monthly increase to each household's calculated TANF grant. With the implementation of the Payment Standard, payment amounts went from 30% of the 2002 Federal Poverty Level to 33% of the 2005 Federal Poverty Level, which incorporated the previous \$30 increase.

4. Description of the methodology used to calculate the estimated impact of this eligibility change (attach supporting materials to this form):

Although this policy increased the grant amount payments to TANF households, it did not change the eligibility determination calculation (benefit standards remain at 30% of the 2002 Federal Poverty Level) and therefore did not have an impact on the caseload.

5. Estimated average monthly impact of this eligibility change on caseload in comparison year: N/A

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PART 2 – Estimate of Caseload Reduction Credit

(Complete Part 2 using Excel Workbook provided.)

See attached Part 2 worksheet and Impact Template labeled Payment Standard Implementation.

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PART 3 -- Certification

I certify that we have provided the public an appropriate opportunity to comment on the estimates and methodology used to complete this report and considered those comments in completing it. Further, I certify that this report incorporates all reductions in the caseload resulting from State eligibility changes and changes in Federal requirements since Fiscal Year 2005.

(signature)

(name)

(title)